

Bozeman elected to lead Alabama Cattlemen's Association

During the recent 64th Annual Alabama Cattlemen's Association Convention and Trade Show in Huntsville, Max Bozeman of Elba was elected to serve as the 2007 President of the Alabama Cattlemen's Association.

Bozeman is a full-time cattle producer in Coffee County. He grew up on a diversified family farm in Crenshaw County and received a bachelor's degree from Troy State University in 1975. He started in the cattle business in 1979 and today runs a herd of 300 commercial cows and a seasonal stocker program. He also grows his own hay and corn silage.

Bozeman has been very active in leadership positions within Alabama's beef cattle industry. He has served as President of the Alabama Beef Cattle Improvement Association, is a member of the ALFA Beef Committee, chairman of the Coffee County bull sale committee, serves on the Coffee County extension council, and is a past President of the Coffee County Cattlemen's Association. He and his wife Kathy have two sons, Steve and Charles.

Rep. Spicer announces school safety initiative

Representative Terry Spicer, D-Elba, announced a school safety initiative that includes providing for Resource Officers in schools across Alabama.

Resource Officers are law enforcement personnel who provide added safety and security for school children.

"One of our top priorities in education must be ensuring that our children go to school in a safe environment," said Spicer.

"Resource Officers have made a tremendous impact for schools in my district and I believe they can do the same across the state."

With recent reports of violence in schools across the country, school safety has become a major concern in many Alabama communities. School Resource Officers help build partnerships between law enforcement, students and teachers to provide a positive safe learning environment. Having trained law enforcement officers to educate counsel and protect our schools is a tremendous asset for the whole community.

The Alabama Legislature convened Tuesday, March 6, for the first legislative day of the 2007 regular session.



The beef industry is the second largest segment of Alabama's farm economy representing a \$2 billion industry with annual sales of cattle and calves exceeding \$450 million. The Alabama Cattlemen's Association, founded in 1944, is

one of the nation's largest state cattlemen's association with an annual membership of 12,000.

For more information, visit the cattlemen's association with an ACA website at www.bam-annual.com.

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Left to Right: ACA Treasurer Ned Ellis, ACA Vice President Steve McDonald, ACA President Max Bozeman, ACA President-Elect Orland Britnell and ACA Executive Vice President Dr. Billy Powell.

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Obituaries

VESTA MYRTLE BAILEY
Mrs. Vesta Myrtle Bailey, age 93, of Elba, Ala., died Sunday, March 4, 2007 at her home in Elba.

Funeral services were held March 6, 2007 from the Chapel of Hayes Funeral Home in Elba with Reverend Wayne Webber officiating. Burial followed in the Evergreen Cemetery, Elba, with Hayes Funeral Home directing.

Memorial contributions may be made to First Choice Hospice, P.O. Box 476, Elba, AL 36323.

Mrs. Bailey was preceded in death by her husband, James Olen Bailey; son, Jimmy Bailey;

mother, Annie Pearl Whitman; father, Jessie Albert Whitman; sister, Clyde Rhodes; brothers, Flournoy Whitman, Colon Whitman and Basil Whitman.

Survivors include her daughter: Joanne (husband Keith) Cochran, Abbeville, Ala.; two grandsons: Kyle Trammell and Chad (wife Krystal) Trammell, Dothan, Ala.; two granddaughters: Alicia Bailey and Payton Bailey, both of Glencoe, Ala.; two great-granddaughters: Kacyla Trammell and Allison Trammell, one great-grandson: Chase Trammell, all of Dothan; and a sister-in-law: Mary Alice Whitman, Elba.

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DRIVER SALE- Friday & Saturday, March 9 & 10, 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. 1 Mile Past Taylor Hill Community Church, Address is 1269 Hwy. 166 West Towards Danley's Crossroads. 3-8-1tc

YARD SALE- Friday & Saturday, March 9 & 10, 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. 1 Mile Past Taylor Hill Community Church, Address is 1269 Hwy. 166 West Towards Danley's Crossroads. 3-8-1tc

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YARD SALE- Selling House! Everything Family Doesn't Want Must Go. March 17, 2007; 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Hwy. 134 Near Leo Baptist Church, Turn on Coffee County Rd. 450 to Residence 1159. 3-8-2tp

YARD SALE- FRI & SAT. Baby Bed - Playpen - Bar Stools - Table & 2 Benches - Sheets - Pillows, etc. & Lots of Misc. Items. 1446 Smith Ave. 3-8-1tp

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DRIVERS: CDL-A, Call us Today to Run 350-mile Radius Short Haul. Home During the Week. Off Weekends. Ask About Southeast Regional, Dedicated and OTR. Call 1-866-215-3659. 3-8-1tc

ARE YOU ready for a new exciting career with good pay, benefits and travel? Truck driving is your answer. Call Magic City Driving Training 1-866-910-0851. (R)

CDL-A DRIVERS: Expanding fleet offering Regional/OTR runs. Outstanding Pay Package. Excellent benefits. Generous Home Time. Lease Purchase on '07 Peterbilt. National Carriers 1-866-707-7729 www.national-carriers.com (R)

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BAKERS TREE SERVICE AND STUMP REMOVAL. 23 years of Experience. FREE ESTIMATES. Call 897-2271 after 6:00 p.m. 10-29-4fc

ALEX'S BARBER & STYLIST- Old Fashion Haircuts to Layered Styles. Walk-ins Welcome. 220 West Davis, Elba. Call 303-3526. 3-8-1tc

HAVE YOU been in an automobile accident? Wanted-Current information on your auto accident. Call toll free 1-866-684-1449. 3-8-1tp

NEED TO advertise statewide? ALA-SCAN can place your 25-word ad in 121 newspapers across Alabama for only \$105 (additional words \$7.50 each). Make one call to this newspaper (a participating ALA-SCAN member) to find out how easy it is to advertise statewide! Or visit us online at www.ala-scan.com (R)

NORTH CAROLINA Log Cabin \$89,000. E-Z to finish interior on a 1 acre site. Mountain home sites 1 to 8 acres w/dramatic views! Paved access, utilities e-z financing. 1-828-247-9966.

AUCTIONS AUCTION TUESDAY, March 13th, 10 a.m. M & M Enterprises 1480 Republic Road, Birmingham, AL. Doors, windows, trim, building material, more! For Brochure 1-205-945-0408. Asset Liquidators Clydette Hughes AL1275.

AUCTION U.S. Marshall & U.S. Bankruptcy Tuesday, March 13th 10 a.m. 2002 Harley, 1998 & 1996 Freightliner Truck, 1998 Dodge Caravan & more! 1-205-945-0408. Asset Liquidators Bessemer, AL. Clydette Hughes AL1275.

PUBLIC AUCTION Saturday, March 10, 10 a.m. Sunday, March 11, 1:00 p.m. Elegant contents of Murdock Mansion. 7512 Hwy 55, Chelsea, AL 1-205-668-0204 www.caldreauctions.com Auct. T. Morrison AAL1474 (R)

LAND FOR SALE ACREAGE FOR SALE Paved Road & Water. Call 897-2300. 1-25-tfc

NEW DAYCARE STARTING IN HOME DAYCARE Cheapest In Town. Experienced and Dependable. 897-0387. 3-8-1tp

RELATIVES SALES INSURANCE SALES. Leads, Leads, Leads. Incredible Opportunity. Managers and Agents Wanted. Earn \$1,000 to \$10,000 Weekly with Benefits. Call 1-229-228-6936, ext. 163

DRIVERS - NEW Trucks, Home Weekly, Avg. 3,000 Miles Per Week. One-Day Orientation. What more could you want? Solos & Flatbed needed. Class A-CDL, 22 yrs old, good record. Call today!! 1-866-863-4009. (R)

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Elba HeadStart celebrates Read Across America Week

On Friday, March 2, the Elba Head Start celebrated Dr. Seuss' "Cat in the Hat" 50th birthday. It also was Read Across America Week.

The Elba Kiwanis Club and the Elba Public Library worked together on this event for the HeadStart students.

The children began their day with a breakfast of green eggs and ham, and after a final agreement that the green eggs were not so bad, the children were escorted to the Elba Public Library by Elba police officer Brian Lusher and The Cat in the Hat (Ashton Dean). Upon arrival the children settled in for an assortment of stories and various activities.

Elba Mayor James Grimes read the first story. He was followed by officer Brian Lusher, Church of Christ Minister Phillip Box, members of the Elba High School Key Club and Kay Wilson, librarian.

The Cat in the Hat led the children in some physical activities followed by Kay Wilson giving the children a tour of the library and telling them of the different services it provides. Brandi Dean, with the help of the readers, led the children in coloring pages and crafts.

After a delicious snack,



Elba Mayor James Grimes is shown reading to the children from Elba HeadStart last Friday, March 2, at the Elba Public Library. This special event was held as part of Read Across America Week and also in recognition of the 50th birthday of Dr. Seuss' Cat in the Hat.

Officer Lusher and The Cat in the Hat led the children back to

NOTICE:

Any Enterprise residents needing supplies, such as water, MRE's, tarps, baby items and non-perishable food items, need to go to the distribution center located on Boll Weevil Circle in front of JCPenney. Any residents who do not have transportation, need to call (334) 348-2681 or (334) 348-2682 to arrange for delivery or pick-up of supplies.

Needed food items at this time include: boxed juices, protein bars and cereal bars. There is no current need for buns, bread, or hotdogs. Donations should be taken to the Enterprise Recreation Center at 421 East Lee Street.

The children from Elba Headstart listen intently as Elba Mayor James Grimes reads to them. Others readers participating in the event included Elba Police Officer Brian Lusher, Elba Church of Christ Minister Phillip Box, members of the Elba High School Key Club and librarian Kay Wilson.

IRS has \$27.6 million for Alabamians who have not filed a 2003 tax return

Unclaimed refunds totaling nearly \$27.6 million await about 27,000 Alabamians who have, yet to file a federal income tax return for 2003, the Internal Revenue Service announced today. To collect the money, they must file a return for 2003 with an IRS office no later than Tues., April 17, 2007.

Based on IRS records, half of the Alabamians who could claim refunds would receive more than \$600. In some cases, these individuals had taxes withheld from their wages, or made payments against their taxes out of self-employed earnings, but had too little income to require filing a tax return. Some may also be eligible for the refundable Earned Income Tax Credit.

"These people will be filing late, however there is no penalty when a refund is due. But they won't get the money we owe them unless they file a return," said IRS spokesman Dan Boone.

In cases where a return was

not filed, the law provides most taxpayers with a three-year window of opportunity for claiming a refund. If no return is filed to claim the refund within three years, the money becomes property of the U.S. Treasury. For 2003 returns, the window closes on April 17, 2007.

The IRS reminds taxpayers seeking a 2003 refund that their checks will be held if they have not filed tax returns for 2004 or 2005. In addition, the refund will be applied to any amounts still owed to the IRS and may be used to satisfy unpaid child support or past due federal debts such as student loans.

By failing to file a return, individuals stand to lose more than refunds of taxes withheld or paid during 2003. Many low-income workers may not have claimed the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Although eligible taxpayers may get a refund when their EITC is more than what they owe in tax, those who file

returns more than three years late would be able only to apply it toward the taxes they owe (if any). They would not be able to receive a refund if the credit exceeded their tax.

Generally, unmarried individuals qualified for the EITC if in 2003 they earned less than \$33,692 and had more than one qualifying child living with them, earned less than \$29,666 with one qualifying child, or earned less than \$11,230 and had no qualifying child. Limits are slightly higher for married individuals filing jointly.

Current and prior year tax forms and instructions are available on the Forms and Publications page of the IRS Web site at IRS.gov or by calling 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676). Information about the Earned Income Tax Credit and how to claim it is also available on IRS.gov. Taxpayers who need help also can call the toll-free IRS help line at 1-800-829-1040.

Individuals stand to lose more than refunds of taxes withheld or paid during 2003. Many low-income workers may not have claimed the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Although eligible taxpayers may get a refund when their EITC is more than what they owe in tax, those who file

Enterprise Alabama Tornado Fund opened

The Enterprise Alabama Tornado Fund opened through CB&T Bank and Synovus Corp is open for donations to aid in the City of Enterprise's storm recovery process. Funds will go to benefit victims and displaced families. Those wishing to make a monetary donation should go to www.cityofenterprise.net where they can find donation information or they should call 1-877-598-4584. The line will be open Monday-Saturday from 8 a.m. until 9 p.m. The line opened March 2, 2007 at 5 p.m. The line will also be open after hours and will provide callers with information. Donations can also be sent to P.O. Box 311245, Enterprise, AL 36631.

Something Better

by Linda M. Hodge

Chapter Five

It was nearing dark as the sun was setting. Kyle was enjoying the time he and Sidney were sharing on the hillside, but he knew they better start walking back to the house. Otherwise, they soon would be making their way in the dark.

"As much as I hate to say it, we'd better head back to the house," Kyle suggested.

"You're probably right. It is beginning to get dark."

Kyle couldn't explain it, but he felt comfortable around Sidney. She definitely was easy to talk to, and seemed genuinely interested in getting to know Kyle better. He decided Sidney was someone that made others feel better just by being around her.

"I know it's none of my business," Sidney said as they made it about halfway down the hill.

She could stand it no longer. For her own sake, she wanted to know why Kyle left. She didn't know if he would tell her. She really had no reason to think he would. As far as she knew, he hadn't even explained it to his brother. Regardless, she hoped he would be willing to tell her. Maybe he just needed someone to ask.

"I'm going to ask anyway," she continued.

"Okay."

"Why did you leave?"

For five years, Kyle had avoided that question. He knew everyone wanted to know, but he had never explained his decision to anyone. All he could remember was how disappointed everyone seemed in him and his choice. He got mad when it appeared closed minds would prevail and decided just to leave and say nothing. The only regret he had was not talking to Kevin.

"Truthfully, I got scared."

Kyle was shocked by his own admission. He had long battled his inner self to find the words to explain why he took off. Now, suddenly without hesitation, he was able to answer Sidney's question with no apprehension. Kyle had never felt as comfortable talking to anyone as he felt with Sidney.

"I don't understand. Why did you get scared?" "Who knows. Maybe scared isn't the right word. All I can tell you is I spent my whole life knowing what my future was supposed to hold for me. Even when I was a kid, it was set. I would grow up and take over the family business alongside my big brother. For the most part, it seemed like a pretty good deal."

"So, what happened?"

"I was about to graduate college. Despite the predetermined destiny thing, dad always told us that he wanted us to go to college. I was almost done when my folks were killed in that car accident. After that, the pressure to assume my position here grew even stronger."

Sidney remembered how devastating the car accident was to everyone. Anna often would tell her how worried she was about Kevin and Kyle. She would always say they each had too much male pride to show their emotions.

"Kevin already was handling operation of the farm and feed store on his own," Kyle continued. "He really is a natural at it. Somewhere during it all, I started to wonder if settling for the expected was worth it. For me, anyway. Take my dad, for instance. He grew up and worked here his whole life. He didn't know anything else. Then, one day it was over. I told myself there's got to be something better out there than this. So, I decided I was going to find it."

Sidney was stunned by what she heard. Kyle did what many others do on a daily basis. He chose to go out into the world to find his own place. He didn't want to settle. What's wrong with that, she wondered.

"I don't get it Kyle. All this time, I thought there was this big unbelievable 'thing' that drove you away from Cedar Oaks. When, in reality, all you did was leave to 'go find yourself.' What's wrong with that?"

"For a long time, I asked myself the same thing. I didn't see where I had done anything wrong. To this day, I still believe that. But, you'd better not say it around some of the relatives. To them, I abandoned my family by shunning my heritage or something like that."

"That's ridiculous!"

There was something Sidney still didn't understand, though. Kevin had never said one ill word about his brother. Anna had never said anything. Apparently, the two brothers didn't have a falling out over Kyle's decision. They were the ones trying to keep in touch. There had to be more. There had to be something else that actually drove him away.

Next Week: Chapter Six

Revelations

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DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

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SET YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD ONE HOUR SATURDAY NIGHT!

Let us order your rubber stamp!

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Now Fills TRICARE Prescriptions.

Debit and Credit Cards are accepted.

Transfer Prescriptions are Made Easy By Bringing Your Bottle From Another Pharmacy.

PHARMACY 897-2511

Elba General Hospital and Nursing Home now offering Open MRI and Therapy Services

Open MRI Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Reports to Physicians within 24 hours

Therapy Services Evaluations Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Physical and Occupational Therapy Outpatient, Inpatient and Nursing Home Services Medicare Approved Rehabilitation Provider Therapy Sessions Scheduled at Patient's Convenience

Physician orders for MRI or Therapy services are accepted from any physician. You may see your physician and bring a written order or have your physician call us.

Phone: 334-897-2257

COMMUNITY NEWS

Elba Lions Club hosts annual pancake breakfast

The Elba Lions Club hosted the annual pancake breakfast last Saturday, March 3, at the Elba Senior Citizens Center.

The annual event is held as a fund raising effort for the local civic organization. According to Lions Club by-laws, any monies gained through fund raising activities, such as the pancake breakfast, must support projects to help people and organizations

serving them. The Elba Lions Club has helped support such organizations as: Alabama Sight Conservation, Campaign Sightfirst II, Camp Seale Harris, Southeast Leader Dog School, American Diabetes Association, local sight projects, Elba Girl Scout Troop #200 and Alabama Lion's Annual High School All-Star game.



Max Bozeman was among the many Elba residents to attend this year's Lions Club pancake breakfast. Many mark their calendars for the first Saturday in March to enjoy pancakes and sausage prepared by the Elba Lions Club members.



Rex Boutwell (right) is the official pancake chef for the Elba Lions Club. Through the years, Boutwell has become extremely proficient at flipping the hot cakes for Elba residents attending the annual fund raising event. The Elba Lions Club holds the pancake breakfast the first Saturday in March each year. Shown assisting Boutwell with the cooking duties is Perry Stinson Sr.



The newly crowned Miss Elba queens found themselves quick to work last weekend. The young ladies were crowned Saturday evening, March 3, and participated in the Open House event held Sunday afternoon, March 4, at the Elba General Hospital and Nursing Home. The queens (shown above) include Miss Elba Christina Bryant, Little Miss Elba Kayla Seay and Junior Miss Elba Cortlin Lee.

(Continued from Page One)

CCC

commissioners with a request regarding the road.

Vance said the road was originally set up as a private road by a resident who, at the time, was the sole owner of all the property along the roadway. He said the current residents had no part of it at that time, and none of the current residents have the capability to keep up the road.

Vance said the current residents of Private Road 1611 are seeking approval for the road to be transferred to the Coffee County Commission for the county to take on the maintenance of the road. He said the residents are currently working to bring this road up to the county's standards for consideration.

Vance said the residents were told it would take approximately \$100,000 to bring the road up to county standards.

"Pockets aren't that deep out there folks," he said.

Commissioners took no action during the meeting regarding this request; however, later in the meeting, Commissioner Darylmyre said the estimate he gave residents on the private road to bring it up to standards came from the county engineer. Darylmyre said he wanted the residents to understand that the road will have to meet county standards before the county will take it over.

Commissioners next heard from three separate citizens regarding the same issue. Lister Reeves, Joey Powell

and Wendy Shaw each wanted to discuss the issue regarding the road.

Reeves, representing Briarwood Apartment complex, said he was seeking a certificate of exemption for the apartment complex. He said recently a letter was received indicating the complex would have to abandon the current garbage disposal system and go to individual cans for the owners.

Reeves said his apartment complex has over 60 apartments and going to individual cans would be a management disaster.

Currently, he said Briarwood Apartments has two dumpsters for apartment owners to use with garbage picked up twice weekly.

"To put 68 garbage cans out by the street would be unsightly," Reeves said.

He said any apartment complex he has ever been involved with has always had dumpster situated in a central location for all the apartment owners to use. Also, Reeves noted the proposed individual can method would require an astronomical increase in cost to the apartment owners for garbage collection.

At his appointed time to speak, Joey Powell said he had the same concerns and request as Reeves.

Wendy Shaw, representing Briarwood town homes, explained a similar situation also. She especially noted the lack of space to allow for individual cans.

Following the requests, Commissioner Thompson said the next meeting of the Coffee County Commission will be Monday, March 12, at 9 a.m. in the community room of the county complex in New Brockton.

The next meeting of the Coffee County Commission will be Monday, March 12, at 9 a.m. in the community room of the county complex in New Brockton.

Reeves said the letter sent recently indicated March 1st as the deadline for change. He asked if they could continue to use the current system of dumpsters until commissioners make a decision regarding this issue. Thompson said he believed that would be acceptable.

In other business, commissioners:

- Approved a request from county engineer Randy Tindell to begin advertisements for construction of cell six at the county landfill.
- Approved a motion to change the Monday, May 28, meeting to Tuesday, May 29, due to the Memorial Day holiday.
- Approved a motion to adopt a resolution in support of the Joint Land Use Study Committee. Also, approved a motion to appoint Commissioner J.L. Weeks to serve on the working committee.
- Approved a motion to appoint Kathy Bragg to the Coffee County Water Authority board. Bragg replaced Charles Lott on the board effective



Dr. Joseph Meloni and his wife, Sheridan, participated last Sunday afternoon, March 4, in an Open House hosted by the Healthcare Authority of Elba. The event allowed Dr. and Mrs. Meloni an opportunity to meet many local citizens. The couple moved to Elba recently from Phoenix, Ariz. Dr. Meloni said he is looking forward to serving the community as a family medicine physician. His office opened Monday, March 5. It is located across from Elba General Hospital and Nursing Home. Appointments are currently being accepted by calling 897-3800.



Catering for the Open House held last Sunday at Elba General Hospital and Nursing Home was handled by Jimmy Harrison (center). The event was held in celebration of the opening of the new medical records, MRI and Therapy departments. It also served as a welcome event for Dr. Joseph Meloni. Shown above with Harrison are Elba residents Doris Matthews and Vicki Bandstra.

Stop by any of our locations for our Open House, March 19-24

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102 lawn and garden tractor \$999

Quantities limited!

- 17HP Engine by Briggs & Stratton
- Electronic ignition for fast starts
- 5 speed, gear-drive transmission

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You're a HIT at The Peoples Bank!

The Peoples Bank of Coffee County is hosting a baseball clinic to promote the perks of our **Builders Club Account**

Boys: 8-14 years old

When: Saturday, March 10th

Where: Elba's Legion Field

Time: 9 a.m. - Noon

Coaching Staff: Troy University Trojan Baseball Team

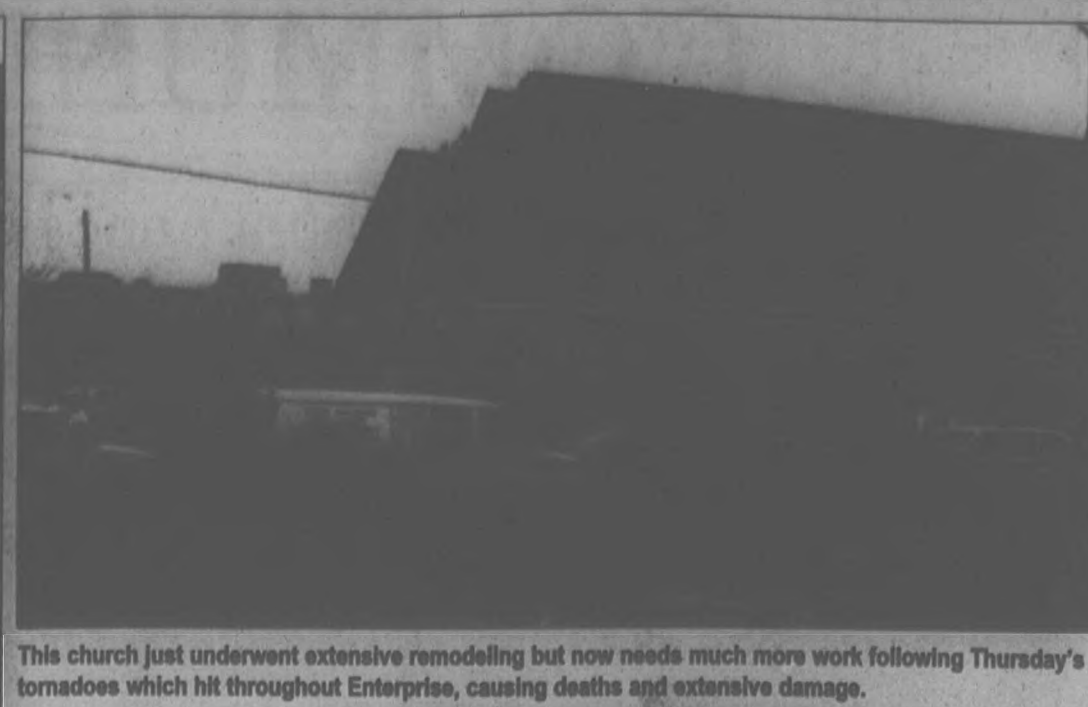
FCFS basis limited to the first 100 participants, a release form must be signed. This is a **FREE Program!**

Register with Jennie Clark @ (334) 897-2252 or jclark@tpbcc.com

A few pictures from devastated Enterprise following Thursday's tornadoes



President George Bush stands at the high school with students and officials while addressing press.



This church just underwent extensive remodeling but now needs much more work following Thursday's tornadoes which hit throughout Enterprise, causing deaths and extensive damage.



A five fold dose of pine trees on a roof near the high school



Just one of the high school classrooms destroyed. The car in the foreground is without windows, as were most others in the school area.



Reverend Ron Stallard grabbed his chain saw and put his strong muscles to work clearing fallen trees from damaged homes in Enterprise.



Governor Bob Riley spent time inside the damaged high school

DORSEY

From Page 1

get an worked to draft an agreeable "asset purchase agreement", the judge issued a short order agreeing to the sale but not including any of the language worked out by the buyer, seller and lien holders. That is apparently unacceptable to some parties to the settlement.

Butts said Thursday that he is hoping the Trustee would be

STORM

From Page 1

damage to businesses, homes and utilities in several widespread areas of Enterprise.

As of late Tuesday, Coffee County was on a list of state and national disaster areas, eligible for financial help in recovering from the damage.

Volunteers are flocking in from neighboring communities and across the nation to assist in the clean up and recovery efforts.

Governor Bob Riley visited on Friday morning and returned Saturday with President George Bush.

U.S. Representative Terry Everett and his wife Barbara were with the governor on Friday. They returned Saturday with the president.

Also with the president Saturday was U. S. Senator Richard Shelby.

Attorney General Troy King visited the damaged areas and

asking the judge for another hearing to work out the problems.

In response to questions, he said that Mr. Pitts has the right to walk away from the deal if his terms are not accepted.

Butts added that "previous owner product liability" immunity is in virtually every bankrupt court contract and they expected it to be in this one.

He could give no estimate of how long this latest delay will take to work out.

cautioned citizens to beware of con artists and to report any efforts to rip off storm victims.

As of press time Tuesday there had been no announcement as to when Enterprise schools will be reopened, nor where displaced students will attend classes.

Following the tornadoes hitting, emergency personnel, medical teams, police and fire fighters, from surrounding communities and Ft. Rucker converged on Enterprise to help wherever needed, not waiting to be called.

Ambulances and Ft. Rucker helicopters transported injured to surrounding hospitals, after the damaged Enterprise Hospital and doctors reached its limit of patient care ability.

At one time at least four ambulances were backed up to Elba General Hospital emergency room unloading patients.

A nighttime curfew remains in place in the worse damaged areas of Enterprise.

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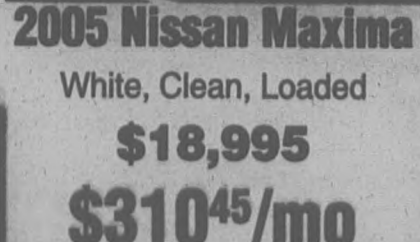
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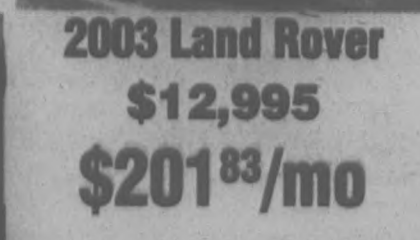
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2005 Honda CR-V
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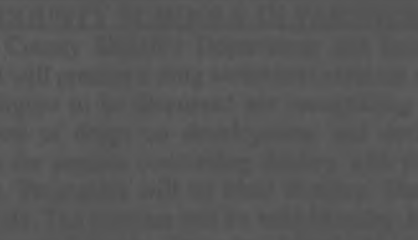
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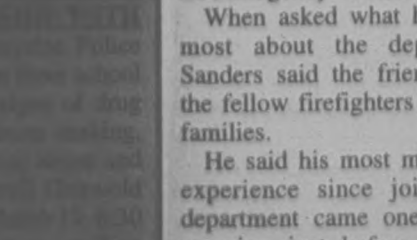
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Elba, Alabama

Thursday, March 15, 2007

1 Section, 14 Pages Plus 2 Adv. Inserts

Utility officials defend rate increases in Elba

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

Recent increases in electric rates by the Elba Water and Electric Board have caused problems with many household budgets and thus corresponding complaints to city hall.

Utility officials defend the increases as just passing on increases in wholesale power cost and other operating expenses. Their position is that it should have been done a year ago.

A quick comparison review of audited financials for the past four years show power costs to the utility have definitely increased.

In 2003 the Elba utility spent \$2,318,265 for purchased wholesale power. This number increased some in 2004 to \$2,326,719. Then in 2005 the annual cost rose to \$2,690,437 and in 2006 it jumped up over a half million dollars and zoomed passed the three million dollar mark to \$3,226,820.

While these numbers are not adjusted for possible increases in total power purchased, there has been no major increase in industrial, commercial nor residential growth during that time period. There has in fact been some drop in activity in all three categories.

The budget comparison numbers can get confusing in a news article, however, it does show increases in several categories. Gas, oil and tires almost doubled in costs during that four year period; tools and supplies increased and telephone charges nearly doubled also.

Travel expense dropped several thousand dollars, as did truck expense. Salaries and payroll taxes actually dropped also several hundred dollars while

Elba mayor commends department heads for keeping expenses down

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

The Elba City council met Monday evening and there were no surprises.

Monthly bills totaling \$73,362.29 were approved for payment. Mayor James Grimes commended department heads for cooperating and keeping expenses down.

Grimes also reviewed the financial statement and noted that total income was higher than budget projections. He noted however that much of that was transfers from the Water and Electric Board.

New Brockton Town Council votes to raise garbage fees

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The New Brockton Town Council voted Monday, March 5, during the regular monthly meeting to increase garbage fees.

Mayor Charles Cole said the increase was something most everyone had been expecting due to the new solid waste collection contract recently approved with Arrow Disposal Services. The increase for garbage service will be \$2 per month.

Cole said residential customers will pay \$16 per month. This includes \$13 for garbage pickup and \$3 for trash pickup. Commercial customers will pay \$22 per month. This includes \$19 for garbage pickup and \$3 for trash pickup.

Mayor Cole said customers can expect the increase beginning with the March 15th

maintenance cost dropped by \$60,000. However, these were more than offset by the meter upgrade program which was \$362,937 in 2005 and additional costs are occurring each year as the program itself expands. This should be a labor cost saver in the long run, but initially it is very expensive.

Another point made by Elba utility officials is that Elba rates have historically been lower than those of other utilities. They cite the Elba rate of \$98 for 1000 KWH, both winter and summer.

A list of 20 utilities, including Alabama Power, Gulf Power and 18 co-ops, Elba rates were lower both winter and summer combined than any other utility. These numbers were accurate as of February 15 of this year.

Alabama Power had lower winter rates, but higher summer rates. The same was true for one unidentified co-op. The other co-op rates ranged from \$104.60 per 1000 KWH to \$138.70 per 1000 KWH, year round. These numbers did not include any applicable taxes, but did include the various fuel adjustment add ons for the month of February.

Then addressing the recent rate increase, an actual bill to an Elba resident was computed at the previous utility rate and the new rates. The results were as follows:

The residence used 2385 KWH during the month and was charged \$260.53 under the new rate. The old rate would have been \$215.20. However the Fuel Adjustment dropped from \$23.86 to \$11.93. That netted out to an increase of \$33.40 for electricity.

Garbage rates were also increased, as was sewer fees.

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The garbage fee for homeowners went from \$12 to \$14 while sewer rates on this examined household went from \$16.97 to \$20.88.

The totals of these, water (which didn't increase) and the \$5 school donation on this particular bill totaled \$348.40 compared to the old rate of \$307.75. These totals do include the Alabama 4% utility tax.

The total additional charge on this selected bill was \$40.65. The brick home is centrally heated and cooled and is somewhat larger than the average home in Elba. There is one stay-at-home family member in the house during most days.

The review of financial records and individual billings showed that expenses increased faster than income, day to day expenses for the utility increased 150% as fast as income to the system during the four years reviewed.

Coffee County Commission approves medical leave for county administrator

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Coffee County Commission began the regular bimonthly meeting Monday morning, March 12, by voting to approve a leave of absence for county administrator Wilson Mobley.

Mobley, who was not at Monday's meeting, submitted a letter requesting leave due to health related issues. Seemingly, this was on the recommendation of his doctor.

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the medical leave. No time frame was indicated.

Commissioners opened bids for maintenance/repair of cell doors at the Coffee County Jail. Only one bid was submitted for consideration.

Cornerstone Detention Products submitted a bid in the amount of \$9,450 for labor, cleaning, testing and recalibrating the cell doors. It was noted that any parts that have to be replaced will cost separately.

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve this bid.

During his report to commissioners, Sheriff Dave Sutton said the infrastructure problems at the county jail need to be fixed, and the Coffee County Commission helped the county move one step closer Monday by correcting these problems by awarding the bid for the repair to cell doors.

During a recent disturbance at

Area Happenings

by Linda Hodge, Editor

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THE EXPECTED TEARING DOWN of the downtown Elba building owned and formerly occupied by a portion of Clements Furniture began this week. As of Tuesday afternoon, some of the building's windows already had been removed. Structural problems with the building were identified in December '06. Court Street in downtown Elba has been blocked to traffic since the building troubles were discovered. After the building has been torn down, the street most likely will be reopened.

the jail which the sheriff said remains under investigation, he said part of the problem was not being able to secure cell doors.

Also during his report, Sheriff Sutton again emphasized a need to increase manpower within the sheriff's department.

"We are short on manpower," he said.

Sutton said the department needs five additional people. He said Coffee County currently has 11 road deputies which is up to 10 deputies less than other counties with the same land mass to cover.

Sutton said the recent catastrophic event in Enterprise renewed the county's need for extra manpower and equipment. Therefore, he requested a work session with commissioners to again discuss the need for additional manpower.

The sheriff said he was requesting working together with the commission to find a way to get the additional five people for the sheriff's department.

He presented commissioners with a proposal which he said would cost the county approximately \$276,442. This included the hiring of one sergeant and four deputies, as well as the purchase of three additional patrol units, duty gear, bullet proof vests, duty weapons, shotguns, tasers, uniforms and communication gear/equipment.

Chief deputy R.W. Whitworth also provided commissioners with a monthly report from the sheriff's department. He said the sheriff's department wants the



During Monday's Coffee County Commission meeting, Chairman Jim Thompson reminded solid waste customers of a deadline to place decals on their trash cans. Thompson said green decals recently were sent to residential customers (such as the one shown above) to be placed on trash cans. He said customers must have the decals placed on their can by Monday, April 2. Otherwise, he said the service provider, Arrow Disposal Services, will not pick up garbage and will confiscate the cans with no decal displayed.

commission to know what's going on with the department.

In February, Whitworth said the department received 797 civil papers and served 967 papers (some left over from the previous month). Also, he said

the department received 348 warrants and served 210.

Whitworth said 26 felony arrests were made in February along with 15 misdemeanors.



Firefighter Jeremy Sanders
Jeremy is the owner/operator of Sanders Earth Construction, hunting, working, operating equipment and spending time with Ashley and his family. His hobbies/interests include